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SUBJECT Military Activities in the Seoul Area

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1. A force composed of 30,000 North Korean and Chinese infantry troops, 6,000 Chinese cavalymen, and a 700-man Chinese reconnaissance unit moved through Seoul between 4 and 7 January. The Chinese wore khaki uniforms with black or khaki overcoats; the North Koreans wore grey uniforms or civilian clothes. Most of the troops were armed with rifles; they were also equipped with about 170 50-mm., 82-mm., 120-mm. mortars, 150 motorcycles, 120 Soviet trucks and 400 oxcarts. Southbound Chinese were billeted in ordinary houses in the East Gate (127-00-42, 37-34-03) area. Many Chinese roamed the streets seeking forage and clothing. The troops moved only at night. Their morale appeared to be high.
2. By 6 January less than 20,000 persons remained in Seoul. Approximately 1,000 persons and 500 partisans held a demonstration that evening on Sohma Street. No shops were open and no one was seen on the street until then. On 7 January a few refugees entered the city from the direction of Suwon. Many buildings and houses in the Mapo (126-56-50, 37-32-00) quarter were destroyed by bombardment on the morning of 6 January.

25X1A Comment. The map references are to AMS L-951, 1:12,500, Kyongsong, Korea.

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